

FOR THE GRADUATE

White Frocks to Be Worn at
June Commencements.

OLD TIME SIMPLICITY GONE

Up to Date Gowns Enriched With
Embroidery and Lace.

Some of Them Demand Much of the Dressmaker's Skill and the Fond Parent's Purse—Lingerie Frocks First Favorites for the Occasion—Most Graduation Gowns of White, but Some Tinted—Paris Morning Frocks in the New Styles—Checked Voiles Much Favored—The Girdle and Its Pretty Curves.

The graduating frock is to be reckoned with this month, and both fashionable dressmakers and humble seamstresses are already wrestling with the problems of girlish modishness.

The frock must be simple, but there are many varieties of simplicity and some of the varieties demand much of the dressmaker's skill and the fond parent's purse. Girlishness is as essential as simplicity, and a frock may be both simple and girlish without being becoming.



A GREEN CLOTH SUIT.

So the vexed questions are many, and the day when any white muslin frock with blue ribbons was a satisfying thing to the eyes, girl graduate seems far away.

The lingerie frock is still first favorite for the purpose—more so than ever this season—but it is a lingerie frock with a difference, and, as a rule, its simplicity is in general effect and in the eye of the beholder rather than in the details of the frock.

Still, the graduating frock to be pretty and appropriate, need not be expensive. Fineness of material it must have but a dress pattern of the lawn or batiste or mull is not an extravagant investment and, though lavish use of lace or embroidery will run the cost up rapidly, much may be done with a little trimming provided that trimming is well planned and skilfully carried out.

The possibilities of the tuck in connection with the lingerie frock are endless, and though many tucks call for additional material, they are less expensive than any good separate trimming.

The full skirt of fine lawn, gored at the top to do away with superfluous stuff, but left full enough to be shirred into the waist band, or tucked vertically around the hips, may be made charming by the use of tucks as sole trimming. Graduated tucks, narrowing as they recede from the hem toward the half skirt length line where they end, are well liked, but groups of tucks either uniform or made with a different depth for each group, are effective.



OF VOILE AND TAFFETA.

A deep flounce with many fine tucks upon its bottom and set on the skirt either with heading or with a group of tucks is usually becoming and lessens the difficulty of the cutting, since the flounce gives ample fullness at the bottom of the skirt and all is not left to the gored.

A double or triple skirt, the shaped flounces set on a bell shaped, sharply flaring foundation, and each bordered by many fine tucks, is pretty if well cut, and is becoming to the girl with fair length of skirt line, but unless the overlapping flounces are well shaped or of superlatively soft, fine material, this model is prone to look bunglesome. An under petticoat very clinging round the hips and very flaring and bouffant at the bottom is always needed to give this double or triple skirt the correct silhouette.

With the tucked skirt, tucks in the blouse are imperative, and the only other trimming introduced in the yoke or guimpe and bertha and in the sleeves.

Many of the sheer separate blouses offer excellent suggestions for the blouse of such a frock, and, indeed, it would be perfectly feasible to buy one of these blouses, match the plain material for a skirt and obtain a French effect at a minimum price. Of course, the finest of these blouses are expensive, and it would be foolish to buy one that was not of fine material; but the poke and guimpe effects of these ready to wear blouses are more dainty and attractive than anything within the scope of the

home seamstress, and the complete frock would be far less expensive than one a good turned out by a first class dressmaker.

One should be sure, however, in choosing the blouse either to select one that will consort well with a simply tucked skirt, or one whose trimming can readily be matched.

Another type of lingerie frock, elaborate in effect, yet less costly than the intricately trimmed concoctions of the fashionable dressmaker, is the embroidery gown, made from robe patterns of embroidery, or from by-the-yard embroidery flouncings. Some of the patterns, including plain material, flouncing of two widths, insertion bands, and perhaps medallions, are exquisitely dainty, and often the skirt is already put together and so nearly finished that any dressmaker can hang it and put it on the band.

These are not cheap, when fine, but the

Open work embroidery, blind embroidery, fine hand embroidery and Valenciennes lace are the trimmings of the graduate's lingerie frock. Add to these the many forms of handwork, shirring, tucking, smocking, openwork stitching, etc., and one has a chance for infinite variety of detail.

Intricate inserting of Valenciennes insertion in combination with multitudinous little tucks running in all directions characterizes most of the more elaborate models, and tiny sprays and garlands of hand embroidery mingled with the lace and tucking give the last touch of smartness and daintiness.

Very frequently very heavy appliqué motifs of embroidery are used in small quantities, accentuating the bluntness and airiness of the other trimming. There is, for example, one charming frock in the central group whose blouse and short sleeves are formed entirely of overlapping

of sleeve, recall the days of our grandmother's girlhood and are quaintly charming in themselves; but tight lines collar have so long played havoc even with girlish throats that many of those throats are better suited to the high transparent collar than to the low cut throat line.

Surplice cut blouses, leaving the throat bare or worn with a transparent guimpe and collar of lace are liked for the gradu-

This idea of vertical skirt trimming is exceedingly popular, and not only are long lines of trimming applied to a flat front breadth, but trimming of lace and embroidery may follow all the seams from belt to hem or to the top of a flounce. Broad bands of embroidery or lace may run up the skirt from hem to knee or half way up the skirt, while the top of the skirt is left untrimmed, or perhaps the bottom of a plain full skirt



GRADUATING FROCKS.

embroidery is less costly than handwork, and, as was said of the French blouse and skirt, the finished frock will cost less than as pretty a frock turned out from a smart dressmaking establishment.

Embroidery flouncing of the finest kind may be bought in widths that allow for the whole skirt length; but it is rather

frills of fine Valenciennes save for the pointed yoke of heavy embroidery motifs set together with handwork and lace, and there are many model frocks made with shallow guimpes of transparent Valenciennes and openwork, and with heavy embroidery medallions or appliqué bordering the bottom of the guimpe and lying flat round the shoulders.

Often the heavy trimming is used on no other part of the frock, but it gives character to a blouse that might otherwise seem uninteresting, though lovely in detail.

The yokes or guimpes are more shallow than those of last year and do not drop to the shoulders, though the bertha, which is still popular, gives a long shoulder effect to some modish frocks. In numerous

ating frock, but, though charming, they are not so youthful as the blouse frilled to some sort of yoke and fastening in the back, and they should be reserved for the older girls of the group.

Here again we often find very heavy embroidery appliqué or band insertion bordering the surplice, while the rest of the frock is

may have these bands set in up to a point well above the knee and crossed by two bands of the same trimming running round the skirt.

Valenciennes insertion by the mule is used upon the graduating frocks, inset in straight lines, vandykes, scrolls, scrolls, Greek key design, bowknots, etc. It is used, too, to join seams, to frame embroidered medallions, to form whole guimpes and long cuffs.

Valenciennes lace is employed not merely as edging or frilling, but also to be inset like the insertion bands. The scallop side

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One of the frocks shown among the small cuts illustrates this idea and has in addition a very attractive skirt of tulle suggestion. The horizontally plaited and frilled taffeta trimming of the bodice front and sleeves is also a good note, and the whole frock—which is of voile, taffeta trimmed—achieves extreme modishness in a fashion comparatively simple.

Frocks of taffeta and veiling in which the whole lower part of the plain, full skirt from the knee down is of taffeta, the irregular line of joining 'twixt voile and silk being covered by some flat trimming, are among the imported models, and with the bodice and skirt, taffeta trimmed, there is usually a short full cut or wrap of taffeta trimmed only in self frills and ruffles and bands. Chiffon and silk mousseline are also combined with taffeta in this same fashion.

The pongees are more in evidence as the season advances, and though they have no such vogue as taffeta, they are the material employed in a goodly number of the smart silk street frocks. A deep cerise shantung, with a dash of amber in its tone, made quite simply with revers of the silk, edged bands of the silk, and with soft scarfs of the silk to fasten the coat at the bust, is one of the frocks we have chosen for illustration; and in the same shop was a most delightful soft dull blue shantung made with a plain full skirt plaited on the hips and a short loose bolero, whose collar and pocket flaps showed glimpses of orange in their blue embroidery.

Mohairs, too, come to the front with the warmer days and will evidently be much worn in the lingerie province, the plain and figured nets, chiffon, silk mousseline, silk gauze, crepe and all the very sheer silks are suitable for the graduating frock. Fine voiles and colles, too, are used where expense and serviceability are vital considerations, and a very simply made frock of sheer white voile with no trimming save nun's plaits on the skirts and with some good lace in guimpes and sleeves, is not only a very serviceable and inexpensive frock, but a very girlish and pretty one as well.

Chiffon and mousseline de soie are perishable and quite as costly as the fine lingerie frock which is more fashionable this season; but the sheer white silks and gauzes are durable things. All white is, of course, the ideal thing for the graduate, but a little model frock shown by a popular house has been copied for a pretty graduate in one of the New York boarding schools.

It is of one of the sheer silky stuffs too thin for silk, too heavy for gauze—a white silk of the radium or clair de lune weight and luster—and is made over a white silk flowered in blurred pink roses. Only the merest hint of color or design shows through the white, and in some lights not even that tint is seen, but there is a fascination in the shifting, fleeting suggestion of shadowy color and outline.

A guimpe set with frills of narrow Valenciennes edging, deep cuffs with similar trimming and a deep skirt flounce trimmed in Valenciennes frills are features of the frock, and heading the skirt flounce and bordering the guimpe is a heavy scallop embroidery appliqué.

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Mohairs, too, come to the front with the warmer days and will evidently be much worn in the lingerie province, the plain and figured nets, chiffon, silk mousseline, silk gauze, crepe and all the very sheer silks are suitable for the graduating frock. Fine voiles and colles, too, are used where expense and serviceability are vital considerations, and a very simply made frock of sheer white voile with no trimming save nun's plaits on the skirts and with some good lace in guimpes and sleeves, is not only a very serviceable and inexpensive frock, but a very girlish and pretty one as well.

Chiffon and mousseline de soie are perishable and quite as costly as the fine lingerie frock which is more fashionable this season; but the sheer white silks and gauzes are durable things. All white is, of course, the ideal thing for the graduate, but a little model frock shown by a popular house has been copied for a pretty graduate in one of the New York boarding schools.

It is of one of the sheer silky stuffs too thin for silk, too heavy for gauze—a white silk of the radium or clair de lune weight and luster—and is made over a white silk flowered in blurred pink roses. Only the merest hint of color or design shows through the white, and in some lights not even that tint is seen, but there is a fascination in the shifting, fleeting suggestion of shadowy color and outline.

A guimpe set with frills of narrow Valenciennes edging, deep cuffs with similar trimming and a deep skirt flounce trimmed in Valenciennes frills are features of the frock, and heading the skirt flounce and bordering the guimpe is a heavy scallop embroidery appliqué.

For women folk outside the graduating ranks, all sorts of tempting materials and models are displayed, but little that is startlingly new is put forward now. The forecast of months ago has been proved correct, and while every day shows new trimming details, combinations and the like that have achieved popularity are those whose success was foretold.

The draped bodice with girle or closely fitted waist curves and bust line higher than that of last season is triumphant, for the dressy frock and makers are showing a decided partiality for fullness laid in fine plaits at the shoulder, allowed to fall straight to the bust and then caught up in little plaits down the center front. In very soft goods this arrangement is most graceful, and it gives width to shoulder, chest and bust, yet defines the bust roundness and admits of a closely drawn waist line.

One of the frocks shown among the small cuts illustrates this idea and has in addition a very attractive skirt of tulle suggestion. The horizontally plaited and frilled taffeta trimming of the bodice front and sleeves is also a good note, and the whole frock—which is of voile, taffeta trimmed—achieves extreme modishness in a fashion comparatively simple.

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